

Brentwood NEWSLETTER



Volume XXXIV No. 3

Brentwood, New Hampshire

March 2010

The Town and School Meetings

This *Newsletter* is arriving just before the town heads into a week of annual business meetings, voting and elections. All the articles and letters about those events are in the first part of the issue. The second half contains the customary articles and updates about the daily life of the town.

The dates, times, and locations of the town and school meetings –

Brentwood School District Meeting – Saturday, March 6, 9:00 AM, Swasey School Gymnasium.
Discussion & voting on Swasey Warrant Articles, including the Swasey School budget.

Election Day – Tuesday, March 9, polls open from 8 AM – 7 PM at the Brentwood Community Center, 190 Route 125. Voting by ballot for:
1. Town officers & Town Zoning Amendments.
2. Brentwood School District officers.
3. Cooperative School District officers and Warrant Articles, including the Coop District budget.

Brentwood Town Meeting – Saturday, March 13, 9:00 AM, Swasey School Gymnasium.
Discussion & voting on Town Warrant Articles, including the Town budget.

BRENTWOOD SCHOOL DIST. MEETING

The Warrant Articles

The Brentwood School District Meeting Saturday morning, March 6 will have 3 warrant articles for the voters' consideration. Following is a summary.

Article 1 To see if the District will vote to raise and appropriate the Budget Committee's recommended amount of \$5,192,185.00 for the support of schools, for the payment of salaries for the School District officials and agents, and for the payment for the statutory obligations of the District. The School Board recommends \$5,192,185.00. Majority vote required.

Article 2 To engage in public discussion regarding the proposal to adopt the provisions of RSA 40:13 (known as SB2) to allow official ballot voting on all issues before

the Brentwood School District on the second Tuesday of March. (By petition).

Article 3 To hear the reports of agents, auditors and committees or officers heretofore chosen and to pass any vote relating thereto.

Article 4 To transact any other business that may come before this meeting.

ELECTION DAY

The Election Day Ballots

Voters will receive **three ballots** at the Brentwood Community Center on Election Day, Tuesday, March 10 – the Town ballot; the Brentwood School District ballot; and the Cooperative School District ballot.

On the **Town Ballot** you will first vote for the **town officers**. Then will come **Question 1**, which says "Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 40:13 (known as SB2) to allow official ballot voting on all issues before the Town of Brentwood on the second Tuesday of March?" A Yes vote means you wish to eliminate the Town Meeting system of discussion and voting. A No vote means you wish to keep the Town Meeting system of discussion and voting.

On **other side** of the Town Ballot (page 2) will be the two **Zoning Amendments** proposed this year. These were explained by the Planning Board on page 3 of the February *Newsletter*. A full copy of the amendments will be available at the polling place. They are also online at the town website, www.brentwoodnh.gov in the Planning Board section.

On the **Brentwood School District Ballot** you will vote for the Brentwood **school officers**. Then will come **Question 1**, "Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 40:13 (known as SB2) to allow official ballot voting on all issues before the Brentwood School District on the second Tuesday of March?" A Yes vote means you wish to eliminate the School District Meeting system of discussion and voting. A No vote means you wish to keep the School District Meeting system of discussion and voting.

Continued on page 2

TOWN OF BRENTWOOD On the Web: www.brentwoodnh.gov**TOWN CLERK and TAX COLLECTOR:**

Phone: 642-6400 X 14
 Mon., Wed., Thurs. 9:00-4:30
 Tuesday 9:00-8:00
 Friday 8:30-4:00
 Saturday 9:00-12:00

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Phone: 642-6400 X 10 Fax: 642-6310
 Monday–Thursday 8:00-4:30
 Friday 9:00-1:00

MARY E. BARTLETT LIBRARY

Phone: 642-3355 E-mail: bartlettlibrary@comcast.net
 On the Web: www.brentwoodlibrary.org
 Monday 2-7 Thursday 9-5
 Tuesday 9-5 Friday 9-1
 Wednesday 9-5 Saturday 9-1
 Story Hours: Tuesday 10:30 and 2:00 Wednesday 10:30

SWASEY CENTRAL SCHOOL

Phone: 642-3487
 Swasey on the Web: <http://scs.sau16.org>
 SAU 16 on the Web: <http://www.sau16.org>

Continued from page 1

The Cooperative School District Ballot

First on the ballot will be the candidates for the **Coop School District officers**. Brentwood voters, like all voters in all the towns, are to choose one candidate from each of the towns listed. Next will come the seven **Warrant Articles for the Coop School District**. Again, these are to be voted on by all voters in all the sending towns.

TOWN MEETING

The Town Meeting warrant articles, as well as the School District warrant articles, the annual reports of the town and school officers and department heads, and a great deal more, are published in the annual **Town Report**. Every household is entitled to a Town Report. It may be picked up now at the Town Office Building. Copies will also be available at the School District Meeting on Saturday, March 6; at the Community Center on Election Day Tuesday, March 9; and at the Town Meeting Saturday, March 13. After that copies will always be available at the Town Office Building.

The Town Meeting warrant articles are summarized on page 8. Town Moderator Dick Chamberlain has also written the Rules of Procedure he uses for Town Meeting, on page 13.

Notes from the Town Clerk/Tax Collector

- If you are transferring plates on your vehicle, please remember to bring in the old registration certificate. If there is no registration when transferring plates, it will cost \$17.50 for a duplicate.
- Applications for **Absentee Ballots** are available at the Town Clerk's Office. Ballots must be returned by Monday, March 8, at 5:00 pm
- Partial payments on taxes are accepted.

Phyllis Thompson

Help with the Brentwood Newsletter?

The Brentwood Newsletter Committee needs, and would be very grateful for, one or two additional neighborhood groups who would volunteer to prepare the *Newsletter* for mailing about once a year.

A group of five to ten people would gather at a neighbor's home for about two hours, often in the evening, fold the newsletter, put on address labels and seals, and put them in the designated cardboard trays for bulk mailing. The printed *Newsletter*, address labels and post office trays are brought to the house by a Committee member. He picks up everything the next morning and takes it to the post office. If this sounds like a possibility for your neighborhood, please contact Linda Rousseau, editor – 772-4534, or lindarou@rcn.com.

THE BRENTWOOD NEWSLETTER

Published 11 times a year by the Brentwood Newsletter Committee,
 Brentwood, New Hampshire. Circulation 1200
 Linda Rousseau, Editor 772-4534
 Marion Arkell, Treasurer, 772-6314 Ann Chamberlain, 642-8758
 Jim Clark, 580-1012 Brad Stevens

Business Card Directory: \$20 per insertion, available in April, September & December issues.
 Business Article: \$100 half page, \$200 full page, available in any issue.

Deadline for April Issue: Wednesday, Mar. 24

Mail or bring your articles to Linda Rousseau, 90 Prescott Road, Brentwood, NH 03833,
 or e-mail to lindarou@rcn.com

SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING

Swasey (Brentwood) 2010-2011 Budget Overview

Our role, as your elected school board, is to balance the educational needs of the students of Brentwood with the financial capabilities of the town of Brentwood. This has been a particularly difficult year given the state of the economy. After many months of discussions we believe we have developed a budget that meets these needs.

Our proposed budget is \$5,192,185. This is a reduction of \$195,398 from our initial 10-11 budget proposal and includes a reduction of one full time teaching position, several support positions, and many other items (books, computers, furniture, supplies). This budget represents an increase over this year's (09-10) budget of \$139, 518 (2.8%). Benefits alone increased by \$85, 827 this year. It is important to note that the 2009-2010 budget was lower than the year before and that the proposed 2010-2011 budget is an increase of \$78,663 or 1.54% from the approved budget from two years ago (2008-09).

We have continued looking at opportunities to reduce costs, and one example is the energy reduction measures taken two years ago which accounted in part for a 17% reduction in kilowatt hours year over year.

Brentwood has been providing an appropriate education at a reasonable cost. Cost per pupil last year is the lowest in SAU16 (from the *Exeter News-Letter*):

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Brentwood--\$10,231.15 | East Kingston--\$11,543.81 |
| Kensington--\$11,367.15 | Stratham--\$12,813.45 |
| Newfields--\$11,400.21 | Exeter--\$14,328.99 |

Our teaching staff is experienced and well educated. Our students continue to receive a solid education and are well prepared for the middle school. Swasey students have performed well on standardized tests and have met or exceeded NCLB (No Child Left Behind) goals every year. This is a testament to the efforts of the entire staff – teachers, support staff, and administration. We are fortunate to have such a talented and committed team. 100% of teachers are HQT (Highly Qualified teachers) – At least a bachelor's degree in the subject taught, full state certification, and demonstrates knowledge in the subjects taught. 93.5% have Masters of Education, highest of NH public schools except for Landaff which has one teacher from NH State Dept. of Education.

<http://www.ed.state.nh.us/education/data/index.htm>

Average teacher salary ranks 4th in SAU16 behind Stratham, Exeter Regional Coop, and Exeter.

Benefit contribution (it is hard to provide an exact comparison but most other plans in SAU16 are a 90/10% or 85/15% split):

HMO 100% Single 95% Two Person 80% Family
POS 95% Single 85% Two Person 75% Family

Our students get a great education as well. Through Response to Intervention, all students are assessed throughout the year to ensure literacy success. Each child's needs are identified and met in a proactive manner. Everyday Math enables similar success in mathematics. Aside from testing well, and showing improvement each year in the topics tested, they have the opportunity to develop their skills in so many areas. The nature trail supports the curriculum by providing an outdoor classroom for science, history, and native cultures as well as providing necessary activities that are also fun such as snowshoeing and hiking. The courtyard supports enrichment opportunities by providing a place for planting and caring for gardens and crops, learning about science and nature, and using the math puzzles embedded in the design.

The culture of learning and respect comes from programs such as *Responsive Classroom*® that empower the students and enable effective collaboration and high productivity. The *Second Step*® program provides a foundation for non-violent conflict resolution by teaching empathy, anger management, and impulse control. The Swasey volunteer program, that has been awarded the Blue Ribbon award for the past 26 years, includes many parent and community volunteers who enhance the learning experiences for all students. These all contribute to learning and development of the life skills needed to be successful students and adults.

Integrated arts which include art, music, library, and physical education have a standards based curriculum that aligns with the more traditional subjects. This includes projects such as kites to support weather and motion, butterflies, animals and habitats to support science, songs from American history and Native Americans to support these subject areas too. Think how music and songs provide effective ways to remember information, art as a way to visualize written words, P. E. to enhance understanding through dance or modeling, and library resources to enable students to satisfy their curiosity. These are not only current best practice models; they align with global learning techniques. They help our students better compete on the world stage.

Swasey has taken a leadership position in using technology as a regular part of the curriculum. Technology is more than just using computers and standard programs. It also includes creating rich newsletters including photos and videos, projects involving storytelling and video presentations, and collaborative activities such as video-conferencing with another classroom in another state on a reading and writing assignment.

Though we have made some cuts, we believe our proposed budget will maintain all of these critical resources and sustain the current level of student success. We ask that you support this budget on March 6th at 9:00 a.m. at the Annual School District Meeting.

Charlie Gargaly
Chair, Brentwood School Board

Election Day: Tuesday, March 9, 2010

The best part of Candidates Night is that the audience gets a rare and interesting overview of the work of so many of the town and school officers. In an atmosphere almost like a living room conversation, questions are asked and answered in a candid, unstrained manner, and real information is gained.

Candidates for Brentwood Town Offices



Standing: John Garey, Allan Knowles, Bruce Stevens, Jeffrey Bryan and Ken Christiansen.

Seated: Malcolm Allison, JoAnn Allison, Elyse Gallo Seeley and Kevin Johnston.

The town candidates who were incumbents in their posts brought the audience up to date on the tasks that had been accomplished in the past year and had considerable praise for the dedication of both town employees and also volunteers. Mr. Knowles stressed that there were too many rules and regulations in town, particularly with the Planning Board, and we should definitely cut back on the money we're spending.

Candidates for Brentwood and Coop District Positions



Left to right: Krista Steger, Linda R. Garey, Katherine B. Miller and Elizabeth Faria

The consensus was that all four school candidates who were able to attend were extremely well qualified. The candidates themselves found they agreed that the new Curriculum and Budget Advisory Committees have been very helpful to the Cooperative District, and there is a need at the Middle School for more academic rigor and at the High School for a stronger guidance department. Discussion about Swasey centered on continuing what it is doing so well.

From your Representative on the Exeter Regional Cooperative School District Budget Advisory Committee

Info for your ballot vote at town elections on March 9

Again this budget season, your Exeter Regional Coop Budget Advisory Committee worked in conjunction with the SAU 16 Business Office to develop budgets and appropriations that would be practical in the current economic climate, yet responsible with regard to the educational goals of our district.

1. *Operating Budget:* In spite of good planning and cooperation on the part of administration and the Coop School Board, we were faced with a 22% insurance rate hike which brought our planned budget of -0.21% higher than I anticipated or wanted. The end result was a 1.45% increase from last year's operating budget. This recommended \$48,529,350 budget will appear on the warrant at town elections on March 9th. Because it is still lower than the default budget, I recommend that you vote **yes** on the operating budget, as a "no" vote will actually make it even higher! Due to Brentwood's enrollment percentage and anticipated school revenue, these operating costs alone will impact our town with an estimated increase of @ 29 cents per \$1000.00 valuation. Just remember: on this year's Coop ballot, on the specific article that designates the operating costs of the Coop School District, a "NO" vote increases taxes, because it brings the regional school's operating budget up to last year's default budget with additional contractual costs.

2. *Collective Bargaining Contracts (2):* The new administrators' contract (two-year) and the renewal of the teacher contract (three-year) came in right before deadline with a Year One nominal increase, and escalating costs in subsequent years. When you vote this year, it is a vote for all subsequent years. The increased costs of these contracts for this year only adds .27% to the operating budget above, an estimated increase for our town of about 3 cents per \$1000.00 valuation.

3. *Expendable Trust Fund Warrant Articles (2):* We voted to fund the Special Education Trust Fund to \$100,000, and the Maintenance Trust Fund to \$80,000, both from the 2010 fund balance. These articles give Brentwood an estimated increase of about 6 cents per \$1000.00 valuation.

On the Coop District warrant, you will also see a *petitioned warrant article* that was initiated in Brentwood to make certain that, in the voter's interest, you will always see the Coop Budget Advisory Committee recommendations/ non-recommendations printed on the warrant when you vote.

This is not a "given" when a Budget Committee is "advisory" in structure.

I hope this is not clear as mud to the readers. Please feel free to contact me with any specific questions about this budget, or access the Coop Advisory Board minutes on line at www.sau16.org/schools/schoolboards/minutes/coop/ercsbminutes.html.

Elyse Seeley
Ph: 778-9411

To the Editor

I am running for a position on the Brentwood School Board and would appreciate your vote. As a parent of two children at Swasey Central School (first and fourth grade), I am proud of our school. In fact, one of the primary reasons we chose to settle in Brentwood was because of the excellent education offered at Swasey and in SAU 16. My children have attended many schools in their short lives because my husband's career required frequent moves. When we finally had a voice in where we could permanently settle (and remain through high school), education was a primary consideration. We are delighted to be in Brentwood, and since education is so important to us, I immediately volunteered to serve on the school board.

I have had a lifelong commitment to excellence in education. I attended Northwestern University as an undergraduate, and obtained my law degree from Georgetown University. While in Washington, DC, I volunteered to tutor inner city youth. I also taught at a small, private university for several years. I have been active in every school that my children have attended, whether in the classroom, through the parent/teacher organization, or by volunteering with extra-curricular activities such as Scouts. Our breadth of educational experience spans a wide variety of school systems from private British, Dept. of Defense, and Montessori to public schools in other states. I believe this broad experience base may enable me to suggest alternative cost-effective ways to enhance our children's educational experiences.

I am volunteering to serve on the Brentwood School Board to ensure that we continue to maintain excellence at Swasey. Doing so will be ever more challenging during these difficult economic times, but as this year's school budget illustrates, it can be done with careful planning, broad discussion, and thoughtful choices. I care deeply about the education our children receive and, if elected, will do my utmost to insure that all our children continue to receive the best education possible.

Linda Garey

To the Editor

For those I have not had the pleasure of meeting yet, I am running for Selectman because I believe there is no higher calling than public service. Before retiring, I had the distinct honor and privilege of serving in the Air Force for 22 years in a wide variety of positions, each with greater levels of responsibility. These included but were not limited to nuclear missile and space operations, policy development, planning and investigations, safety, contingency planning, and system acquisitions. I was a Division Chief for a team charged with a \$500 million acquisition project, a \$1.5 billion range infrastructure modernization project, and a \$2 million safety contract concurrently. I was a diplomat at the U.S. Mission to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and was the sole U.S. spokesman to five committees. My job was to gain consensus from 26 (or at times 46) national representatives on highly sensitive, political-military issues. In my last job, I was a Division Chief in charge of global inter-agency strategic planning initiatives.

None of these jobs were best accomplished by giving orders but by carefully studying complex issues, soliciting a wide variety of views, weighing options, and gaining consensus when possible. Teamwork and collaboration have been absolutely essential throughout my career. Based on my broad experience, I believe I can be an effective team player as a Selectman using this approach.

I see myself as a fiscal conservative who will not view raising property taxes as the only answer to funding every issue. We must show fiscal constraint but not lose sight of medium or longer range planning either. I believe we owe it to the taxpayer to study the issues, ask the tough questions, seek creative solutions, pool resources, and optimize scarce resources. We are a family who gets involved, tries to make a difference, and wants to give back to the community.

Finally, I wish to thank all the current volunteers for their efforts and wish them luck if they are seeking reelection. Please find the time in your busy schedules to come out and vote for the candidate of your choice, even if it is for one of my esteemed competitors. I would appreciate your support but I believe the process transcends individual candidates.

John Garey

To the Editor

Why SB 2?

SB2 provides the opportunity for all registered voters to have their say in the privacy of the voting booth, on the second Tuesday in March between the hours of 6:00 am to 8:00 pm. SB2 makes available absentee ballots so all registered voters may exercise their right to vote. Town Meeting does not.

New Hampshire Law dictates that SB2 must hold a deliberative session for the public just like the town meeting format. The only difference is that SB2 allows several days to consider the pros and cons of all arguments put forth at the deliberative session. Town meeting requires an immediate vote.

Why are we so adamant about SB2? We refer you to, the Budget Committee's rendition of the town and school budgets as well as warrant articles submitted for voter approval this year that was printed in the February 2010 Brentwood Newsletter.

The committee reports that this year's town budget is \$79,609 less than last years and that town warrant articles are \$590,560 less than last years. A warrant article is a request for additional spending aside from the town's budget and does not reflect a savings to the taxpayers.

The budget submitted by the town is a decrease of \$79,609 over last year's budget. However this year's combined warrant articles total \$2,054,000 minus the \$79,609 'saved' represents a spending spree to the tune of \$1,974,391.

Most insulting is the fact that there is no mention that all departments will receive increases in their salaries, including COLAs, step increases and ½ step increases. The most egregious is the town administrator's salary which in 2008 was \$49,918.45, yet that amount will swell with passage of this budget to \$67,422. This is an increase over 2 years, of \$17,503.45. What recession? Remember, this is just one example. We have yet to deal with Swasey School and the 2.8% increase which is driven by a boost in teacher salaries, health care benefits, and retirement contributions.

Clearly, the representation afforded the taxpayers from the Budget Committee (fiscal watchdogs) as well as our elected town and school board officials is non-existent, transparency is a joke, and spending is out of control. Town meeting currently serves those who have a vested financial interest in increasing budgets and is exclusionary by nature.

SB2 incorporates the many into the legislative process, offering all tax payers the opportunity to vote on the town's budgets. We need to shift the power to the true legislators, *We the people*. PLEASE VOTE FOR SB2. We may be reached at jimbo444@comcast.net

Thank you,
Jim Berlo & Jim Johnson

A Word about SB2

The Selectmen included this article in the *Brentwood Newsletter* in 2007 and we have decided to include it again as it still accurately reflects our views:

The Selectmen are unanimously recommending that Brentwood voters reject the adoption of RSA 40:13, the law better known as SB-2. A "no" vote will retain our current form of government which has served the town well for over 250 years, and which we believe is best for future years as well.

New Hampshire law defines us, the voters, as the legislative body. As such, we are charged with fashioning, debating and voting on the articles of the annual Warrant which effectively establish the initiatives and set the budgets for both the town and the school.

Comparing the two forms of government, under both the several departments and the school develop the articles they wish to present. These are scrutinized by both the Selectmen and the Municipal Budget Committee at public meetings which anyone may attend. Change and compromise often take place at these meetings. Both the Selectmen and the Budget Committee vote to recommend, or not recommend, the articles.

So far everything's about the same. Under our present form of government, two decisive meetings are held, the School District Meeting and Town Meeting. At those, the several articles are discussed by the legislative body. That discussion can be warm at times, with reasonable people having strong and differing opinions and motivations. It is not always comfortable, but the democratic process was not designed to be comfortable, but to produce the best results for the most people. Articles can be and are amended in this process. And then we vote yea or nay. While this is usually by voice and/or show of hands, if 5 voters make a written request for it, any article may be voted via secret ballot.

Under SB-2, two non-decisive meetings are held, one for the school and one for the town. They take place over a month earlier. What takes place at those meetings differs little from what presently takes place, except that all the discussions (sometimes passionate) are effectively over and done with. The articles of the Warrant then appear on the ballot, to be voted on yea or nay on the second Tuesday in March.

The voters will be those who were at the meetings plus many others who were not, who could or would not participate, who did not hear the reasoning behind the information or gut feel. This makes your Selectmen uneasy about the process. Also, the long period between the deliberative sessions and the vote can give rise to pure politicking by groups having special interests. The well-financed and loudest voice then has the opportunity to sway votes, and we feel that would be an unfortunate development in our democratic process.

In addition, on February 16th we held a public hearing, as required, to discuss the petition warrant article regarding the adoption of RSA 40:13. There was no one in attendance to speak in favor of the article, but below are opinions from those present who spoke in opposition to SB-2:

- Most of the towns in the area that have adopted it do not like it and have had petitions to reverse it.
- Once you adopt SB-2 it is almost impossible to get rid of it.
- At the Cooperative School's deliberative session to discuss a budget of approximately \$50 million, of a possible 23,972 registered voters there were only about 50 in attendance. Of those 50, only about 7 or 8 did not belong to a committee or board.
- SB-2 allows for a lot more uninformed voters to vote on the issues; it allows people to vote when they don't even know what they are voting for or against.
- The good thing about Town Meeting is that there are a lot of different people in attendance that provide a lot of different angles on the issues. If you arrive and are not well versed on the warrant articles that are being addressed, you'll hear all kinds of opinions and lots of questions will be asked that will make the decision to vote yes or no much easier.
- SB-2 promotes quickie, special interest warrant articles and you're basing your vote on the way the warrant article is worded without possibly hearing both sides of it.

Please vote "no" to the adoption of RSA 40:13 on both the School District ballot and the Town of Brentwood ballot at the polls at the Community Center on Tuesday, March 9.

The Selectmen

*Jeffrey Bryan, Andrew Artimovich
Jane Byrne, David Menter*

KINDERGARTEN Registration If you have a child who will be five years old by September 30, 2010, and you will be sending him/her to Swasey School kindergarten, please call the Swasey School office (642-3487) and give them your child's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth. Please call by Wednesday, March 31.

FIRST GRADE Registration If you have a child who will be 6 years old by September 30, 2010, and has not been attending Swasey School kindergarten, but will be coming to first grade in the fall, please call the Swasey School office (642-3487) and give them your child's name, address, telephone number, place and date of birth. Please call by Wednesday, March 31.

The Town Meeting Warrant Articles

There are 16 warrant articles to be considered this year. Following are brief summaries of them. All articles involving money expenditures are recommended by the Budget Committee and the Selectmen unless otherwise noted. Non-money articles do not require a recommendation. All require a majority vote to pass, unless otherwise noted.

1. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Million Six Hundred Fifty-Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Dollars (\$1,657,700) for the purpose of constructing a new fire station and to authorize the issuance of \$1,695,000 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon. (If this article passes, article #9 is null and void). (2/3 ballot vote is required.)

2. \$1,500 to provide funding to Lamprey Health Care.

3. \$1,000 to provide funding to SeaCare Health Services.

4. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,719,344 for general municipal operations. The Board of Selectmen recommends \$2,723,344. This article does not include special or individual articles addressed.

Not Recommended by the Selectmen by unanimous vote. Recommended by the Budget Committee by a vote of 6 to 2.

5. \$20,000 to be added to the existing Capital Reserve Fund for the repair of town bridges. (Majority vote required.)

6. \$250,000 for the repair of roads.

7. \$50,000 to be added to the existing Capital Reserve Fund for the purchase of highway vehicles and related equipment.

8. \$30,500 to fund a mosquito control program.

9. \$6,000 for equipment in the Crawley Falls fire station. (If Article 1 passes this article will be tabled.)

10. Authorize the Fire Chief to send apparatus out of town and receive fire apparatus from other towns for the purpose of extinguishing a fire, rendering other emergency assistance or performing any detail as requested, in accordance with RSA 154 as amended.

11. Discontinue the following funds which have zero balances: Master Plan Expendable Trust Fund established 1993 and Capital Reserve Fund for Pickpocket Falls/Cross bridge created in 2001.

12. Submitted by petition: Approve the following resolution: The citizens of New Hampshire should be allowed to vote on an amendment to the New Hampshire Constitution that defines "marriage."

13. Submitted by petition: Accept as Town Roads Abbey Road and Windsor Lane.

14. Submitted by petition: Shall the Citizens vote to classify the Crawley Falls Bridge as an Historic Site?

15. To hear reports and recommendations of all committees...

16. To transact any other business...

From the Selectmen

Budget Facts

We would like to take this opportunity to correct misinformation that is being submitted in another article in this Newsletter.

This year's Town Warrant includes 16 warrant articles. One of the warrant articles, as is always the case, is for the operating budget of the Town. We are proud of the efforts made by all of our department heads to keep their budgets at a minimum, resulting in an operating budget that is being recommended by the Board of Selectmen that is \$74,309 less than our 2009 budget.

Despite what the other article reports, not all departments are receiving increases in their salaries. While a 1.7% COLA was approved by the Selectmen for all employees, the Selectmen, the Town Clerk/Tax Collector and the Treasurer have all opted not to receive any increase in their salaries.

The Town Administrator's budgeted salary for 2010 is \$50,532 which represents a \$614 (1.23%) increase over 2009, less than the approved COLA.

Two departments each have a full-time, benefited position that is being left unfilled in order to keep expenses down.

The remaining articles that appear on the Warrant this year total \$2,016,700. The warrant articles that were recommended by the Selectmen and presented to taxpayers at last year's town meeting totaled \$2,720,560. This represents a decrease of \$703,860 for 2010.

The Selectmen's meetings and the Budget Committee meetings are open to the public and we strongly encourage residents who are interested in learning the facts and/or providing input to attend these meetings.

Sincerely,

Brentwood Board of Selectmen
Jeffrey Bryan, Andrew Artimovich
Jane Byrne, David Menter

Calling All Residents...

For the past three years the Town has presented to the voters a warrant article for a new fire station. Each time the voting results showed majority approval for the fire station, but the article has narrowly failed due to not meeting the necessary 2/3 majority vote requirement of a bond.

As a fire department, within a community, we are directly responsible to provide the best life saving, incident stabilization and property protection we can, with the people and equipment you provide us, every day and night. It is also the responsibility of every department head to keep the town informed of the responsible needs and issues of their department. Ultimately though, it is the community that agrees or disagrees with that need or issue, and they have the opportunity to support that issue or not, through a voting process. The voting part is the most important component. It is your personal opportunity to help shape the outcome of the community you live in.

During this past year, Brentwood applied for an economic stimulus grant for the fire station. We wish to thank the efforts and assistance of Patricia Crafts during that application period. The process resulted in 6025 submissions (64 from the state of New Hampshire) and almost \$10 billion in requested assistance. Only 109 departments received awards totaling \$200 million and only one was in the state of New Hampshire (London-derry).

This year we are presenting to the voters the same proposed building and design-build contractor we presented in 2009. Ricci Construction Co. Inc has refined some of its pricing from last year and with a lower bond rating from last year, the selectmen, budget committee and energy committee agree this year is a prime opportunity for Brentwood to capture.

Three main questions that may come to mind as a tax payer are answered below.

Why do we need a "new" Fire Station?

For the past 10 years the need for a fire station for the Town of Brentwood has been openly discussed, inspected, and scrutinized. Every year after reviews, countless meetings, public presentations, and even open houses of the current facility, the same conclusion is drawn. Anyone who has participated, in any of the process, ultimately decides that the existing structure is too small for the future needs of the community, too land locked for potential expansion, currently unsafe for occupancy, and it is not even owned by the Town anyway. Since its last expansion, the population has doubled and the call volume has increased by nearly 10 times from 30 years ago.

Why do we need this "now"?

From a building standpoint, the apparatus area is really where we need the added space. Newer fire

engines are typically longer than the older ones, in order to transport firefighters in enclosed cabs and carry multiple equipment needs. From a liability standpoint, the existing building is not code compliant and has several health and safety hazards, which regularly expose firefighters and the general public to unnecessary risks. The fire department is the last general public need to be fulfilled within the "master plan" of the town. This was forecasted to be complete several years ago, in order to be in balance with the growth of the town from more than 10 years ago.

How can we afford this "now"?

This can be better answered by asking yourself a different question: When is the best time to build? If you have acknowledged the need and witnessed the growth, you know we need to implement the plan at some point. It cannot be continually pushed off into the future. Construction costs are down over last year. Interest rates for mortgages and bonds are the best they have ever been, and most experts agree they will never be any lower than they are right now. The impact to the average taxpayer this year will be \$6, and for next year just under \$100, with every year thereafter costing less over the 20-year life of the bond.

If you have any questions at all, or would like to see the conditions at the existing building, feel free to contact the Fire Chief Kevin Lemoine, or the Deputies Joe Bird and Gary Raymond. We know the majority of the community cares and wants to support the needs of the entire town. Please show your support by voting on Saturday, March 13 at 9 AM at the Swasey School.

Gary Raymond, Deputy Chief

New Station

Most Common Questions and Answers

Why do we need a new station?

The existing station is over 60 years old. It does not meet life safety, building or ADA codes. The station is in need of repairs and upgrades. The apparatus bays are too small to fit larger trucks and still be able to maneuver around them.

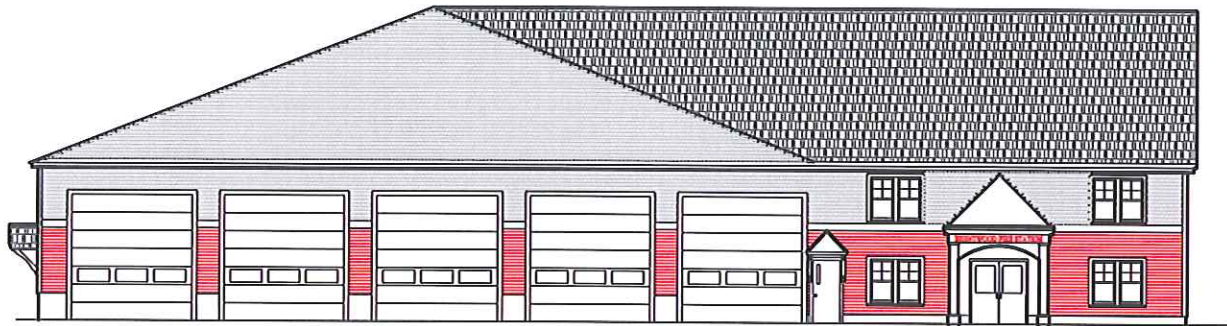
Yes, you can repair the station and possibly add on. The cost is the same as a new building, and when done, you still have a 60-year-old building with apparatus bays too small. Not cost effective.

What if we don't build a new station?

The town will have to spend money on repairs to the existing fire house next year, on a building they don't own.

Continued on page 11

PROPOSED 2010 BRENTWOOD FIRE STATION



SOUTH ELEVATION



EAST SIDE ELEVATION

| <u>FISCAL YEAR</u> | <u>PROPOSED OVERALL BUILDING COSTS</u> | <u>BOND IMPACT PER \$100,000 EVALUATION</u> | <u>INTEREST SAVED ON 20-YEAR BOND PAYMENT</u> |
|------------------------|--|---|---|
| 2009 | \$1,695,000 | \$37.33 | |
| 2010 | \$1,657,700 * | \$31.00 | \$285,659** |

*A COST SAVINGS OF \$37,300 IS REALIZED FROM LAST YEAR.

**A SAVINGS IN INTEREST PAYMENTS OF \$285,659 IS REALIZED FROM LAST YEAR DUE TO A LOWER 2010 BOND RATE.



RICCI CONSTRUCTION CO., INC.

DESIGN/BUILD & CONST. MANAGERS

225 BANFIELD ROAD

PORTSMOUTH, NH 03801

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DATE: January 18, 2010

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If we build a new station will we have to hire more fire fighters and buy new trucks?

A new station has no bearing on new trucks or personnel. We will always have to buy new trucks to replace the older ones. And we may have to hire more fire fighters some time in the future.

What happens to the old station?

The Firemen's Association, owners of the existing fire station, intends to see the building and donate a majority of the money toward the purchase of a new fire truck.

Why do we need a station when the fire department calls other towns (mutual aid) when there is a fire in town?

You must give to receive mutual aid. Every department in the country receives mutual aid. Mutual aid has no bearing on the need for a new station.

How big is the proposed station and why?

The proposed station is just shy of 14,000 square feet, 3000 sq. ft. more than the existing station. The majority of increased space is in the apparatus bays. The bays need to be larger to fit in modern apparatus. Today's fire station needs to house apparatus with room to work and train with equipment. The fire house needs to house fire fighters during storms, disasters and other emergencies, room for an emergency operations center and administrative duties.

Over the years the majority of residents have agreed that a new station is needed. If you support this new station PLEASE come and VOTE March 13, 9 AM at Swasey School.

Kevin Lemoine, Fire Chief

From the Brentwood Budget Committee:

Your 2010-2011 Town Budget

It is that time of year again, the moment of privilege when we, as taxpayers, get to come together and determine the costs of our local community. According to RSA 32:1, the purpose of the Budget Committee is "to assist voters in the prudent appropriation of public funds". We are charged with preparing a recommended budget and it is your responsibility and right to authorize it, or not, at our School District Meeting on March 6 and at our Town Meeting on Saturday, March 13.

Brentwood's budget is prepared from information provided by the varying departments and is comprised of the following sub-budgets: town operating expenses, town warrant articles and bonds, Swasey School operating expenses and Swasey School warrant articles. Although the Exeter Region Coop budget also effects our taxes, our town's municipal budget committee has

no authority over its preparation. Your Coop School Board and Budget Advisory Committee oversee that budget (see this issue's separate article reviewing the Coop budget and recommendations).

Projected Expenses

- ✓ The town's budget is \$2,719,344, a **decrease of \$79,609 or 2.8%** from last year's budget.
- ✓ The town's warrant articles including the Fire Station Bond, total \$2,054,000, a **decrease of \$590,560 or 22%** from last year.
- ✓ Swasey School's budget is \$5,192,185, an **increase of \$139,518 or 2.8%** over last year.
- ✓ Swasey School has no other warrant articles, no change from last year.

Projected Revenues

Those of you who balance a budget understand that on the other side of the expense sheet is the revenue or income column. No differently in this budget, we have to realize the offset of the above expenses from tax revenues, property valuations and State revenues. Revenues also depend on new property valuations (property not previously on tax rolls). A number of economic realities are bearing down on our town's revenue status.

Locally, we are very fortunate. As of January, our revenues from paid property taxes are at 90%, comparable to last year. However, the current property valuation is \$520,591,437.00, anticipated to decrease by 10% due to decreased market valuations. This will likely result in an increase in our tax rate for next year, a number unknown until the tax rate setting in November. Revenues from the State are slated to be diminished by reductions in revenue-sharing to municipalities (Meals and Rooms Tax; municipal employee retirement), though the exact redistribution continues to be debated in the House Finance Committee. The town will be obligated to pick up the additional costs associated with a 30% reduction in the state contribution to employee retirement. On the school revenue side, beginning in July 2011 Brentwood will lose a portion of its current adequacy aid and of its special education catastrophic aid.

In summary, there is an expected loss of revenue to the town of Brentwood in the coming year. The Selectmen have prepared for this loss by frugal encumbrances out of the general fund. We can only estimate the tax impact based on current revenue information without knowing unforeseen expenses, revenues and new property.

Other Business

An amendment to RSA 32 now allows any town to provide the numeric vote tally of a budget committee to be printed with their recommendations next to the article. Our committee voted to include the voting tally this year, so you will see that change on the warrant in this year's Annual Town Report.

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Whose Budget Is It?

By the time you read this, our role in this budget season will have come to a close. I would like to thank the members of this terrific Budget Committee for their work since August, touring the town's departments and facilities, analyzing each and every budget line, communicating respectfully with each other, with Department Heads and with other Boards, and honoring our commitment to contain costs while remaining level-headed in a topsy-turvy economy. With unemployment in the United States at a level not seen in almost thirty years and an overall property valuation that is modest compared to neighboring communities, this Board has been vigilant to not stretch the limits of the community's ability to pay.

The real praise this year goes to the town's department heads. We asked them to consider you first, the taxpayer, and to prepare budgets in a way that meets only current needs, with final numbers at or below last year's bottom line. Your town departments answered the call, with four Department heads either decreasing their own Step raises or waiving cost-of-living increases, and most of the other employees receiving only COLA's. A whopping 23 out of 35 departments came in with zero increases or reductions from last year, and believe me, they felt it. This goes beyond dedication. These departments truly deserve our thanks at Town Meeting.

Now it's your turn, but attendance is required! The Swasey School budget is voted on by voters attending School District meeting on March 6, 9:00 AM at Swasey School. The Brentwood town budget, bond and warrant articles are voted on by voters attending Town Meeting on March 13, 9:00 AM at Swasey School (with free child care). Come to your meetings and vote!

For a complete line-by-line 2010 town budget, go to <http://www.brentwoodnh.gov/budget.php>.

*Elyse Seeley, Chair
Brentwood Budget Committee*

Brentwood Republican Committee

Mark your calendars and plan on attending the US Senate Candidate Forum, hosted by the Brentwood Republican Committee, on **Tuesday, March 9, 2010**, beginning at 7PM. Senate hopefuls Jim Bender, Kelly Ayotte, Ovide Lamontagne and Bill Binnie will be in attendance to answer your questions about their candidacy, and what they would work to accomplish if elected to the United States Senate this fall.

The forum will be held in Hilton Auditorium at the Rockingham County Complex, 117 North Road in Brentwood. Refreshments will be available and the public is welcome.

Other Candidate Forums are being planned throughout the spring – visit <http://www.brentwoodnhgop.org/html/events.html> for the latest schedule. You can also become a fan, and follow us on Facebook (Brentwood Republican Committee), or via Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/brentwoodnhgop>

*Michael Silverwood
Brentwood Republican Committee
info@brentwoodnhgop.org*

A Proclamation

Today the mission of the American Red Cross is more relevant than ever as we confront a changing America full of unique challenges.

Through a collaborative effort with local governments and other members of the emergency planning community, the Great Bay Chapter of the American Red Cross and its partners are better able to serve the community. The Red Cross continues to lead the way in empowering individuals and families to protect themselves through CPR, First Aid and disaster preparedness training.

For more than 91 years, the American Red Cross has honored its mission to provide relief to victims of disasters while helping people prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies. Every day volunteers from across the region help our neighbors by responding to disasters such as house fires or flooding; by becoming instructors in CPR and First Aid and encouraging their friends and family to get trained; by giving blood every 52 days; and by assisting in the Red Cross Service to the Armed Forces program, which keeps military families connected in times of great personal sorrow and joy.

On behalf of a grateful town, we applaud and recognize the selfless dedication of generations of Red Crossers. Now, therefore, we, The Board of Selectmen by virtue of the authority vested in us by Brentwood, New Hampshire of Rockingham County, do hereby proclaim March 2010 as American Red Cross Month. As we celebrate American Red Cross Month, we call upon all our citizens of Brentwood, New Hampshire to become partners in preparedness with their local Red Cross chapter and to become active participants in advancing the noble mission of the Red Cross.

The Board of Selectmen, Brentwood, New Hampshire

Mailing Crew for February

Many thanks on behalf of the town to those in the Pickpocket/Rowell Road neighborhood who prepared the February issue of the Newsletter for mailing: Diantha and Kevin Crowley, Merrill Dwyer, Joanne Kenyon, Sandy Elliot, George Radford, Edie Shipley, Kristine Johnson, Linda Johnston and Trudy Vanzee.

From the Town Moderator

Rules of Procedure for Brentwood's Town Meeting

The State of New Hampshire's RSAs provide enough information about the "Role of the Moderator at Town Meeting" and the "Rules of Procedure" to fill this entire *Newsletter*. This article will be a summary. A more detailed Rules of Procedure will be available at the Voter Registration Desk the day of Town Meeting (Saturday, March 13, 9 AM, Swasey School).

RSA 40:4 requires the Moderator "to preside at town meetings, regulate the business thereof, decide questions of order, and make a public declaration of every vote passed."

RSA 40:4 also provides that the Moderator "may prescribe rules of proceeding but such rules may be altered by the town" (the townspeople who are present). This means that the Moderator has full control over procedure used at town meetings. Actions taken and rulings made by the Moderator under the extensive powers granted by this statute may not be reversed except by vote of the meeting at which the ruling is made. Therefore, one rule that is legally binding is that a Moderator must conduct the meeting in such a way that voters who wish to do so are given an opportunity to move to overrule the Moderator.

"Strict adherence to any set of rules for parliamentary procedure is not required, nor recommended." So...we will be using the Moderator's rules -- not Robert's Rules or any other complex parliamentary rules.

Consequently, I have started each Town Meeting by saying the following:

- (1) This is YOUR Town Meeting. YOU determine the length of discussion and when to recess or adjourn. YOU determine any need for a Continued Town Meeting.
- (2) You may participate in discussion and voting only if you are a Registered Voter in the Town of Brentwood. If you are not listed on the Voter Checklist then an affirmative vote of the voters present is required for you to participate in discussion...but discussion only.
- (3) When you wish to speak, please come to a floor mike, and when I recognize you, please hold your red Voters Card high and state your name and Brentwood address.
- (4) "Calling the Question": When does this happen? Generally out of frustration when there has been a lengthy discussion and Townspeople wish to stop discussing and vote. Rarely is "Calling the Question" used to stifle discussion...but that can happen. My style as Moderator is to see that all sides of an issue are presented...but also to join you in not wanting discussion to go on...and on...and on. So I will try and sense

where you are, occasionally offer my sense of where you are (and you can disagree with my 'sense' and occasionally do !), and eventually I ask if you are ready for a vote to "Close Discussion." And if the majority of you wish to continue discussion...we continue.

A few additional "basic rules":

- **Restricting Consideration.** You may vote after each article to restrict reconsideration of the vote or votes taken. This protects the action taken from being undone or changed later in the meeting, and this vote may not be reconsidered. (RSA 40:1)

- **Discussion through the Moderator.** From my School Moderator friend Doug Cowie --"All discussion and questions will be to and through the Moderator. Passionate debate is allowed (and expected!), however you are also expected to disagree without being disagreeable. Remember, you are entitled to an answer to your question and one of my tasks is to direct your question to someone who can answer it. However, there is no requirement that you like or agree with the answer."

- **Amendments to Amendments.** These are not allowed. If you wish to further amend an article you must do so after the prior amendment has been dealt with.

- **Closing Debate.** Motions to close debate or to Move the Question will only be accepted by the Moderator after everyone in line to speak has had at least one opportunity to speak. To that end, even that motion must be made from the microphone.

- **3 Minute Limit.** To allow everyone the opportunity to speak I request that you keep your comments within a 3 minute limit each time you are recognized.

- **Two-Thirds Vote.** In New Hampshire only warrant articles involving issuing bonds or notes require a 2/3rds majority vote (RSA 33:8 or 33-B:2). All others require only require a simple majority.....**except...**that I ask for a 2/3rd vote to "Close Debate" and to "Reconsider a Question."

Outside New England, many across the USA look at the New England Town Meeting system as something quite unique...as a place where democratic spirit prevails ...as a place where each of us is a potential legislator conducting business through our Town Meeting. Some have referred to Town Meetings as "the best example of pure democracy."

Dick Chamberlain
Brentwood Town Moderator

Warrant Article #13

Windsor Meadows Roads

The Selectmen received a petition warrant article that will be voted on at Town Meeting on March 13 that we feel necessitates further explanation before the residents can make an informed vote.

] The warrant article is asking that the Town accept the roads that make up Windsor Meadows Condo Association (Abbey Road and Windsor Lane) as Town Roads and assume maintenance of these roads. As per the original plan, these roads are currently considered private roads and their maintenance costs are paid through dues collected by the Condominium Association. Whenever a new development is constructed in Town, we require that they comply with our regulations regarding the construction of the right-of-way before ownership of the road is transferred to the Town. The Selectmen feel the same requirements should be made of this development as are made of others. Specifically, we would want the Condo Association to provide us with the following at their cost, not the Town's, as is the case with any new development:

- A certificate that the monuments have been set.
- Final inspection of the roadways by our Town Engineer.
- Provide a set of "As-Builts" for the right-of-way, showing utilities that are located in the ROW.
- A recorded deed including any legal or engineering fees that relate to the transfer of ownership..
- Installation of 6 stop signs that are town compliant.
- Installation of speed limit signs.

In addition we would want the deed to clarify that, as with all other developments:

- The Town shall not be responsible for any lighting within the ROW, including maintenance of the fixtures and associated electric expenses.
- The Town shall not be responsible for any disturbance to grass areas located within the ROW or any material that goes into the ditch line as a result of plowing, unless this impedes the drainage. (The right-of-way is 50' wide, 24' of pavement plus shoulders, most of which have been established as "lawn areas.")
- The Town shall not assume responsibility for any utility or water line maintenance or work done in the ROW associated with those.
- The Town shall not be responsible for plowing/ maintaining designated parking areas.

The warrant article, as it stands, could cost the taxpayers upwards of \$20,000 (20 thousand dollars) in order to complete the above-mentioned requirements. We are in hopes that an amendment will be made on the floor that any acceptance of the roads will be contingent upon the Association's completion of the above-

mentioned tasks as we feel strongly that these expenses should be born by the Association members, not all the taxpayers of Brentwood.

Brentwood Board of Selectmen

Report from Your State Representative

This past month, the behavior of a few House members received a lot of attention, some of it national, none of it good. One representative was piqued when the House Speaker ruled removal of some intemperate wording he had included in a minority report he wrote about a bill he opposed. Pouting, he chose to obstruct the proceedings of a subsequent session of the House, using his right to have bills taken off the consent calendar and voted on individually. Worse than this were the comments of two other House members. Referring to a federal program that helps the state recoup the costs of adoption by any adopting couple, a representative from Londonderry asserted at a Judiciary Committee hearing, "So we [the state of NH] sold each kid to a homosexual couple that's not married, for \$10,000." Also at a Judiciary Committee hearing, a representative from Merrimack falsely charged that in Nashua "They are showing our fifth graders how [two males have sex]....They are saying this is something that you, as a 5th grader, may want to try." We can be thankful that most legislators are serious and responsible and not given to making idiotic public statements.

Here are some of the actions the House took in February:

A majority disagreed with the Commerce Committee's recommendation to quash a bill that would allow purchase of drugs from Canada. I was among those who voted to send the bill back to the committee for reconsideration.

Every year opponents of Roe vs. Wade try to chip away at abortion rights by introducing bills that would place limits on them. A perennial feature is a requirement that in all instances minors must have parental permission before being receiving medical treatment. No one wants to be labeled as going against parental rights, but this bill, HB 1454, failed by a 218*-140 vote because, among other things, it would have required a parental okay before an injured minor requiring emergency medical care could be treated, possibly putting the minor's life in danger. Another bill, voted down by a 243*-110 count, required that any female, regardless of age, seeking an abortion would be compelled to receive state-sanctioned counseling, that medical personnel could ignore the health and well-being of a patient to satisfy personally held beliefs, and

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Champions for Children Award

The Champions for Children Award is an opportunity for each school district to recognize individuals who have distinguished themselves by demonstrating significant involvement in programs and/or services that directly benefit the students and families of SAU 16.

The Brentwood School Board has recognized three individuals this school year. Wayne and Kathy St. Hilaire were recognized for their significant efforts in creating and running the Brentwood Recreation Center facilities and all of the associated sports and recreational programs for decades. Sheila Lane was recognized for volunteering her time and contributing to the community by creating and running an intramural after school program, the Cross Country club, and the Jump Rope Club since the mid-1990s. She also developed and coordinated the outdoor classroom in the Swasey courtyard, and continues to plant gardens and flowers, as well as coordinate other volunteers. We are proud to recognize these three as part of our community.

Charlie Gargaly

Chair, Brentwood School Board

Historical Society

In February members of the Brentwood Historical Society visited the Fremont Historical Society Museum. The president and curator, Matthew Thomas, pointed out many highlights and details of the displays, traced the story of the museum's development in the last six years, and explained the program format of the Fremont society.

Two weeks later the Brentwood members put in a work day at their own museum, cleaning, rearranging and making room for new displays. Coming events:

March 9 – a Bake Sale table at the Town Elections, from 8:00 am until the items are gone.

April 8 – A special program, "Just Like a Tumbleweed," on the lives led by children on the frontier in the 19th century, presented by the award-winning authors Linda Peavy and Ursula Smith. This will be a Humanities Council program presented in conjunction with the Friends of the Library on **Thursday, April 8, 7:00 pm at the Mary Bartlett Library.**

May --the opening of several new exhibits at the Historical Society Museum. Open hours will be announced. For more information call Alma Vahey, president, 679-8635.

Linda Rousseau

for the Historical Society

Dedication of Town Report



Linda Rousseau, holding the 2010 Town Annual Report, poses with Selectmen Andrew Artimovitch, David Menter and Jane Byrne. The Report was dedicated to her in recognition of her many years of volunteer service across a broad range of activities.

Brentwood 4-H Plans

The Brentwood Nightriders, along with other area 4-H groups, will be sponsoring a "Community Getting to Know 4-H/ Earth Day Celebration" on April 17, 2010 from 9:30 to 1:00, at the Brentwood Community Center on Route 125.

Come and see what opportunities are available to our children through 4-H. Individual 4-H groups will be there with what their group has to offer our community of children.

In addition to the 4-H booths, our own community 4-H group, The Brentwood Nightriders, will be celebrating Earth Day. There will be educational booths that include gardening, composting, recycling, water testing, hands-on activities for the children, and many different booths to educate and demonstrate "Saving" our planet. We will be helping to clean up the community grounds, and planting flowers, so bring your green thumb.

The goal is to bring awareness to 4-H and Earth Day all in one community event. Come one, come all and bring your friends!! Open to the public. Feel free to contact Sue Mankins, 772-3709 or Phyllis Elliott, 642-6366 with any questions.

Sue Mankins

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that no abortion involving a married woman could be performed without prior notification of the woman's spouse.

A concurrent resolution providing that there will be no broad-based taxes in New Hampshire, now and forever, died, 221*-136. Those voting to kill the bill were not supporting any particular tax but merely reflecting the long-standing opposition of the House and Senate to closing the door to future legislatures to any revenue options, however improbable. Several bills that would have struck down various taxes and fees passed last year for the 2009-2010 budget were defeated, by margins ranging from five votes to 31 votes. The argument that prevailed (and that I supported) was that undoing a biennial budget in mid-stream would have disruptive and harmful effects on the ability of the state government to carry out its responsibilities. By voice vote, a bill establishing a 2.25 percent sales tax upon most retail items, with an exemption for low-income persons, was deemed inexpedient to legislate.

By a vote of 201*-135, the House rejected a constitutional amendment that would have defined marriage as between one man and one woman. It then rejected a bill to repeal gay marriage, 210*-109. Of interest is that the number of Republicans endorsing gay rights has increased since last year.

After well over an hour of debate, by a 300*-56 margin, the House passed a bill, HB 1326, which leaves doctors free to prescribe long-term antibiotic therapy for Lyme disease patients. The legislation prohibits the Board of Medicine from taking disciplinary action against physicians who use antibiotics on a long-term basis to treat patients with chronic Lyme disease. Patients charged that New Hampshire doctors are under pressure from the medical community and insurance companies to treat with only a very limited antibiotic regimen.

Because one medical organization denies that there is such a thing as chronic Lyme disease and the state's public health director says four national studies have shown that long-term antibiotic therapy is no more effective than placebos, the bill faces an uncertain future in the Senate.

For safety reasons, existing laws prohibit the transportation (e.g., in motor vehicles) of loaded firearms. A bill to include loaded muzzle loading firearms under this prohibition was opposed as a violation of the Second Amendment, but passed by a 241*-115 vote.

A minority of the Judiciary Committee stated a belief that "recent infringements on freedom of religion in New Hampshire" necessitate a law to ensure that "no government entity shall substantially burden a person's free exercise of religion." I, for one, was unsure what this was all about, and I supported the committee majority's position that religious freedom is already

supported in our constitution. The bill was defeated, 203*-119.

As always, hot-button issues like abortion rights, taxes, and marriage got a lot of attention and generated a lot of debate. But most bills that are either passed or voted down by the House don't excite much attention. The dozens of those that were passed (by voice votes) in February include:

- Providing for further study of tightening restrictions on the use of psychotropic drugs (e.g., anti-depressants, tranquilizers) on children.
- Setting up a committee to study educational and vocational programs for incarcerated youths and young adults.
- Authorizing an increase in fines from \$2,000 to \$5,000 for violations of wetland rules.
- Allowing well-behaved companion dogs into public areas of restaurants.

A few of the many bills that were killed (by voice votes) include:

- Providing that the voters can veto laws by referendum.
- Requiring random drug testing of public assistance recipients.
- Mandating water quality testing for private wells before the execution of a purchase and sales agreement.
- Requiring motorcyclists to wear helmets.
- Reducing the number of required number plates for motor vehicles from two to one.

A rundown of all legislation can be found at the General Court's website: gencourt.state.nh.us/

Don Petterson

Phone: 772-4519

e-mail: donpetterson@gmail.com

Blog: <http://statereport.blogspot.com>

Get Ready for Spring Planting!

The Rockingham County Conservation District is once again holding its annual Conservation Plant Sale. Proceeds raised at the annual event help to fund the District's projects to conserve, sustain, and restore the natural environment for present and future generations right here in southeastern NH. The District offers a wide selection of plants including native and locally grown fruit bearing trees and shrubs, hanging plants, and more. Trees and shrubs are typically offered as bare-root grown stock to keep prices low.

When selecting species for the sale, the District considers suitability to local environmental conditions, aesthetics, productivity, wildlife benefits, and erosion control. It's time to join hundreds of faithful customers who return year after year. Call the District at 679-2790 or visit their website www.rockinghamccd.org to receive a copy of our new spring brochure. Then look it over, place your order, sit back by the fire and spring planting will be here before you know it.

Brentwood Recreation News

Bunny Breakfast and Egg Hunt

The Recreation Department will again be hosting our Annual Bunny Breakfast and Town Egg Hunt on **Saturday, April 3**. The Egg Hunt will start promptly at 8:45am and the Bunny Breakfast will run 9:00-10:00am. The Easter Bunny will be there to visit with kids and parents are welcome to bring their cameras and take pictures. Breakfast Cost: \$5 for adults and \$3 for kids. The Egg Hunt is free to town residents.

Baseball/Softball

Schedules for the upcoming season will be available on our web site in April. Actual seasons will begin the last week of April or first week of May.

Mohegan Sun Trip

The next trip to Mohegan Sun Casino will be **Monday, March 22**. The cost is **\$35 per person**. Trip includes: coffee/doughnuts on the way down and water/snack on the way back; free \$15 bet; free buffet lunch. Please mail in your sign-up information with check, or contact the office to sign up.

Boston Flower Show & "Odyssey" Luncheon Cruise

Saturday, March 27. Includes: Deluxe motor coach transportation, admission to the Flower Show, Odyssey Lunch Cruise, entertainment and gratuities. Cost: \$105 per person. Call recreation office to reserve your seat.

New England School of Archery

Archery Course, Wednesdays, April 7 –May 5 (no class April vacation week), 3:45pm-4:45pm.

This is an introduction to Junior Olympic Archery course. This class is for kids 7yrs. and older (adults also welcome!) who are new to archery and competition. Form and safety will be emphasized. Participants will shoot for achievement levels. Equipment is provided or you may bring your own (for approval by instructor). No experience required. Cost is \$55.00. Space is limited. Sign up at the Recreation office.

Adult Softball coming this spring!

Watch our web site for more information or call the recreation office.

Yoga Classes

Tuesday evenings, 6:30 to 7:45 PM, Brentwood Recreation Center. All-levels yoga classes, taught by Yoga Alliance Certified Instructor, Wilhelmina Bradley, RYT. Six weeks for \$48. \$10 drop-in.

These will be yoga classes for anyone who has already experienced yoga, as well as for someone who would like to try yoga for the first time. Dress in comfortable clothing for this hour-and-fifteen minute class to

enjoy the benefits of yoga for strength, flexibility, and for stress-reduction in your life. Come join us!

Tang Soo Do Classes

Tang Soo Do is a Korean Martial Art that emphasizes whole body self defense and physical training. It is a true Martial Art comprising both hard and soft techniques. Training in Tang Soo Do is beneficial for self discipline, self defense and health. Classes are taught by Retired Law Enforcement officer Bob Meegan. He is currently a 3rd degree Black Belt with the World Tang Soo Do Association.

Classes are available Monday and Friday at the Brentwood Community Center, 6:30 -- 8:00pm. Enrollment is continual, so you may begin at any point. Cost: \$50/single per month
\$90/family per month (2 or more)

For more information contact instructor Bob Meegan at 742-3565 or contact the Recreation office.

Cribbage Group

Wednesday evenings at 7pm. Our group meets at the Brentwood Community Center on Route 125 for a fun, casual evening of cribbage playing. If you would like to join us or just want more information, please contact: Ursula Mackey at ucbm@comcast.net or 603-642-9178. A \$1 donation is appreciated. **All are welcome!**

Summer Soccer Camps

We will be offering two different camps this summer for children 4-12years. The first week will be with PlaySoccer the week of July 26-30 and the next will be with Challenger Sports the week of August 23-27. Watch for more information and registration form in April.

Facilities Rental

Remember there are still weekday and weekend dates available at the Community Center. Consider having your meeting, birthday party, shower, or other events at our facility. Brentwood residents receive a 50% discount off the rental rates! See our website for pictures of the Center and rental application or pick up an application at the Recreation office.

Check out the Recreation pages on the town website, www.brentwoodnh.gov Forms are there to be downloaded for your convenience, as well as other important information about current programs and events.

Margaret Dullea, Recreation Director

(603) 642-6400 ext. 20 recreation@brentwoodnh.gov
Office hours: Mon. Tues. & Thurs. 8:30am-3:30 pm.
Commission meetings 4th Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm.

Swasey Parent Faculty Group

Big THANK YOU to School Board member Charles Gargaly for speaking at the February meeting.

Our next meeting is on **Tuesday, March 16 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Swasey School Library. We are looking forward to planning the upcoming equipment swap and year-end events. And we will have another great raffle! The winner of the February raffle was Linda Garey! Thank you Crystal Buswell for donating a great prize!

Upcoming Events:

Action Kids Fun Night. Saturday, March 20 - notice will go out in the March 3 Wednesday folder. Deadline for signups will be March 12. Kids age 4 to 5th grade. Limited space, so sign up early!

Navigating Moodle with Cindy Buckles: Wednesday, March 24 at 6:30pm.

Spring Equipment Swap: Saturday, April 10 from 9 a.m. to Noon at the Recreation Building [Community Center]. All equipment regardless of season will be accepted. Drop off your gently used equipment on the following dates: Wednesday 4/7 from 3pm to 5 pm, Thursday, 4/8 from 4pm to 6 pm and Friday 4/9 from 6pm to 8 pm.

Geocaching Presentation by Tony Baldasaro, SAU 16 Assistant Superintendent: Friday, April 16 at 6pm in the Swasey Library. Parents and children welcome.

Square 1 Art Fundraiser! Look for order forms in the Wednesday folder. Please note deadline for orders will be a firm 3/12. No exceptions. For more information on the products available go to <http://www.square1art.com/>.

Pam Carr

Brentwood Seniors

The February meeting of the Brentwood Seniors had to be cancelled because of bad weather. The next meeting will be **Wednesday, March 24** at the Community Center, 190 Rte. 125, a pot luck luncheon. Members should arrive between 11:00 and 11:30 am to help with set-up and have appetizers. The business meeting will begin at 11:30, after which the lunch buffet will be open. The speaker of the day will be presented after lunch.

New members are always welcome in the Seniors and do not have to be a resident to join. For information call Eugene Orcutt, president, at 642-4597.

Benefit Concert featuring Resonance Chamber Group

Pilgrim United Church of Christ Brentwood-Kingston will present the Resonance Chamber Group in concert on **Saturday, March 20, 2010 at 7:00 pm.** Resonance is a group of New Hampshire musicians whose mission is "to entertain, educate, and inspire, through a collaborative effort from a variety of musicians who want to share their love of music." They will do that with a varied program of music for piano, flute, clarinet, recorder and voice that spans the musical periods from baroque to contemporary. Resonance members participating in this concert are Lynne Wilby, Piano; Kim Farah and Sue Hurwitz, Flutes, Nancy Fiske, Clarinet and Recorder and Sue Soucy, Lyric Soprano.

All proceeds from this event will go toward supporting the many outreach programs that Pilgrim Church provides to the community, both local and global. From community services such as a local food pantry, and participation in Seacoast Family Promise which provides temporary housing for families experiencing homelessness to international efforts such as aid to victims of the recent earthquake in Haiti and a Ukama partnership with the church community in Zimbabwe, Africa, Pilgrim Church continues to be actively involved with the world around them.

Please join us for an evening of delightful music and refreshments. Suggested donation is \$10.00 for general admission and \$7.00 for seniors and students.

Brentwood Gardeners

The Gardeners were well rewarded on February 24 for coming out to the Community Center on a rainy night. They heard an excellent presentation on "Ornamental Grasses" by Bill Holt of WillowMist in Stratham. They learned that grasses are at their most spectacular in the fall, their blooms last through the winter, they require no deadheading, no fertilizer, no insecticides, they are tough and hardy, and need no watering after the first year.

The next meeting will be **Wednesday, March 24 at 7:00 pm** at the Brentwood Community Center on Rte. 125. As members settle down with refreshments they will be treated to a talk on "Roses" by a speaker from the famed Fuller Gardens in North Hampton. New members are always welcome and one does not need to live in Brentwood to join. For information call Diantha Wade, president, at 772-5217.

Friends of the Library

Beginning March 10, Brentwood resident Tracie May will offer a 4-part workshop series on *The Financially Fit Family*. The dates will be March 10, 24, April 7 and April 21 from 7 to 8:30 pm. Each night a different financial topic will be explored. Take your financial fitness evaluation and gain confidence with five financial "workouts": strengthening the inner core (goal planning for short and long-term needs), building muscle (budgeting for fixed and variable expenses), improving endurance (savings, investments and taxes), improving flexibility (planning for the unexpected - illness, unemployment), and maintaining balance (plan for the future - yours and others). This will be a great chance to evaluate your financial needs and better prepare for the future. Please contact the Library at 642-3355 for sign up information, as seating will be limited.

On Thursday, March 25, Elizabeth Foley will be returning to Brentwood to present Chakra Therapy for Better Health at 7 pm. Learn how to assist your body in clearing, strengthening and balancing the energies in your body through chakra pathways.

Please take note of the Passes offered through the Library and The Friends of The Library.

Children's Museum of Maine (Portland, ME)
www.childrensmuseumofme.org \$4.00 per person for up to four people.

Children's Museum of NH (Dover, NH)
www.childrens-museum.org/cmnh/ \$2.00 per person for up to four people.

Currier Museum of Art, (Manchester, NH)
www.currier.org/ Free general admission for 2 adults, kids always free

Historic New England (Boston, MA)
www.historicnewengland.org/ Free Admission

McAuliffe Shepard Discovery (Concord, NH)
www.starhop.com/ Free for up to four people, \$3.00 charge for the planetarium show

Museum of Fine Arts, (Boston, MA)
www.mfa.org/ \$5.00 admission each for up to two people

Museum of Science, (Boston, MA)
www.museumofscience.org/ \$5.00 admission each for up to four people

Strawbery Banke (Portsmouth, NH)
www.strawberybanke.org/ Free admission for two adults and up to four children. Free admission to special events, including the Candlelight Stroll

York's Wild Animal Kingdom (York, ME)
www.yorkzoo.com/

American Independence Museum, (Exeter, NH)
www.independencemuseum.org/ Free admission for two adults & their children under 18.

Canterbury Shaker Village (Canterbury, NH)
www.shakers.org/ \$6.00 per adult and \$3.00 per child

The Fells (Newbury, NH)
www.thefells.org/ Free admission for 2 adults and accompanying children under 18

NH Historical Museum (Concord, NH)
www.nhhistory.org/museum.html Free admission for 4 adults or for 2 adults with children

NH Farm Museum (Milton, NH)
www.farmmuseum.org/ Free admission for two adults and children

The Friends of the Library **monthly meeting** will be on **Thursday, March 4** at 9:30 am. Please join us to share your ideas! All are welcome. Meetings are generally held on the first Thursday of each month. Next month's date is set for April 8. If you would like to receive an email reminder about upcoming meetings, please send an email to marybartlett76@yahoo.com and I will gladly include you on our email list.

Michelle Siudut, Publicity

Mary E. Bartlett Library

March ... Mud season, Saint Patrick's Day, Town Meeting, the vernal equinox and the Covered Bridge program at your library on Thursday, March 4 at 7:00 pm. Thanks to the New Hampshire Humanities Council, Glen Knoblock, who is the man who knows all there is to know about New Hampshire's four hundred covered bridges, will give you an armchair tour of this state's historic sites.

The Friday Night Flicks for this month are *Planet 51*, an adventure starring little green aliens, on the 12th and Walt Disney's *The Princess and the Frog* on the 26th about another small, green creature.

The Ladies Night Movie for this month is an oldie, but a goodie. *Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Café*. We will be serving goodies from the Fried Green Tomato Cookbook by Fannie Flagg.

This month's book discussion will be on our usual last Monday of the month (March 29). We will be talking about *The Book Thief* by Gary Zusak, an Australian author. As of September 2009, it has been on the *New York Times* Children's Best Seller List for 105 weeks. Don't shy away from reading it, because the author intended and published it in his native home specifically for adults. It's a winner!

Thanks again to Derek Small for bringing his very popular Extreme Encounters Zoo to the library, and a huge thanks to all who attended. Be sure to check out the article on seacoastonline.com (February 25, 2010) and take a look at the great photos on the [Photo Gallery](#) found at the same site.

*Marilyn Morehead,
Library Director*

Brentwood's Christmas Tree Limo Fund Grant Open for Applications

If you are a Brentwood community organization or service and need short funds for a specific project, you can apply for this grant and use it to enhance your organization and our community. You DO NOT need to be a 501-3C organization, but if you are, you may be eligible for matching grants as well.

Grant applications are now available at the Brentwood town offices and at the library. You can also e-mail treelimo@comcast.net with the word "Application" in the subject line to print an application.

The grant's criteria are simple:

- Targeted use of funds exclusively for Brentwood community or a Brentwood-based organization.
- Imminent need for funds (within one year).
- Financial hardship.
- Restricted resources of other funding.

There is a May 1 deadline, and award notification is June 1.

To the Editor

I am writing to you with some comments about the article in the January edition about the mink farm. This is a little overdue, but I still would like to comment.

As we reminisce about this piece of Brentwood history, I hope we take a moment to consider the plight of the animals involved in the mink farm endeavor and think about a more compassionate present and future. "10,000 to 11,000 pelts" represent terrible suffering and violence. Those animals were forced to live in unnatural circumstances; were afraid and uncomfortable; and were ultimately killed in a method intended to keep the pelts intact - gassing, electrocution, stomping, suffocation.

Scientists agree animals experience pleasure, pain, fear, loneliness, a maternal connection. Anyone who has ever shared their home with a companion animal knows this. And, surely anyone willing to give it some thought would agree animals, domesticated and wild, at a minimum feel pain. Consider the example of feral versus domestic cats: the feral is the same animal as the purring kitty companion about whom you care so much. What makes the fur industry deeply disturbing is the animals are exploited and tormented to satisfy the fashion whims and vanity of the few who can afford it.

I hope the reminder of the mink farm helps us all realize every creature with a will to live has a right to live free from pain and suffering. Animals have a value separate from their "value" to humans. In a world that is often difficult and violent and where life can be a

precious commodity, wouldn't it be nice if we chose to act with the compassion our fellow animals deserve?

Karen Ellis

Bake Sale on Election Day

The Brentwood Seniors and Brentwood Historical Society will have bake sale tables at the Community Center on Election Day. This is the primary method of fund-raising for each group. If any residents wish to contribute baked goods to either table, they will be most gratefully received.

Benefit Concert Called "Songs for Haiti" Scheduled by Brentwood Family

Five local Portsmouth area bands will perform in a benefit concert to raise funds for survivors of the recent Haiti earthquake. The concert will take place at **6 pm** at South Church, State Street, Portsmouth, NH, on **Saturday, March 13**. Tickets will be available at Breaking New Grounds, a coffee house in Portsmouth on Market Square or at Exeter Music in Exeter. Tickets will also be available at the door. Tickets are \$20 for adults (18-60), \$15 for children/ seniors, \$50 family cap. A raffle will include dozens of gift certificates donated by Exeter and Portsmouth area businesses. Donations may be made at Breaking New Grounds in Portsmouth or at Exeter Music in Exeter by cash or check. Checks should be made payable to AmeriCares.

The program will include The Fiends, funky rock/soul; TJ Wheeler, blues; Ray DeMarco, jazz; ESB, classic rock; Jennie and Paul of Avocado Lounge; and DJ Ingalls and Friends, acoustic/vocals. A guest speaker, Joseph Jean-Mary, is planning to travel to New Hampshire to say a few words at the event about Haiti. His parents and sister survived the earthquake despite living in Port-au-Prince at the time of the disaster.

The concert is being organized by Kelly Cresitello-Dittmar, a local music teacher and Brentwood resident, her husband Mark and their two children, Sarah and Ben. The Cresitello-Dittmars organized two concerts in 2005, one for Tsunami survivors and one for Hurricane Katrina survivors. The two concerts combined raised over \$10,000 which was donated to AmeriCares.

Raffle tickets can be purchased from Kelly Cresitello-Dittmar prior to the concert and you do not have to be in attendance to win.

The organizers have chosen AmeriCares once again because the organization is well established (founded in 1982), has already pledged \$15 million dollars worth of medical aid for the people of Haiti, and is one of the top organizations as rated by Charity Navigator.

Tina Foley

Calendar of Events

- Mar. 6 **School District Meeting – 9:00 am, Swasey School Gymnasium**
Mar. 8 Absentee Ballots due at Town Clerk's office by 5:00 pm.
School Board meeting – 6:15 pm, Swasey School
Mar. 9 Election Day – Polls open 8:00 am – 7:00 pm, Brentwood Community Center
Mar. 10 Conservation Commission – 7:00 pm, Cross Room, Town Office Building
Mar. 11 Ladies Auxiliary meeting, 7:00 pm, Fire Hall
Mar. 13 **Town Meeting – 7:00 pm, Swasey School Gym**
Farmers' Market – 10 am – 2:00 pm, Exeter High School
Benefit Concert "Songs for Haiti" – 6 pm, South Church, State Street, Portsmouth
Mar. 14 Daylight Saving Time begins.
Mar. 15 Library Trustees – 6:00 pm, Bartlett Library
Mar. 16 Parent-Faculty Group – 6:30 pm, Swasey School Library
Selectmen's meeting – 7:00 pm, Cross Room, Town Office Building
Mar. 18 Planning Board – 7:00 pm, Cross Room, Town Office Building
Mar. 20 **Resonance Chamber Group Concert – 7:00 pm, Pilgrim Church. See p. 18.**
Mar. 22 **Recreation trip to Mohegan Sun Casino. See p. 17**
Mar. 23 Selectmen's meeting – 7:00 pm, Cross Room, Town Office Building
Mar. 24 Brentwood Seniors – 11:30 am, Brentwood Community Center
Brentwood Gardeners – 7:00 pm, Brentwood Community Center
Mar. 25 Chakra Therapy for Better Health –Elizabeth Foley presenter – 7:00 pm, Bartlett Library.
Mar. 27 **Recreation trip to Boston Flower Show & Odyssey Cruise. See p. 17.**
Mar. 30 Selectmen's meeting – 7:00 pm, Cross Room Town Office Building

Apr. 1 Friends of the Library – 9:30 am, Bartlett Library
Planning Board – 7:00 pm, Cross Room, Town Office Building
Apr. 2 Good Friday service –7:00 pm, First Baptist Church of Brentwood, corner North Rd. and Rte. 125.
Apr. 3 **Brentwood Recreation Bunny Breakfast and Egg Hunt – Brentwood Community Center. See p.17.**
Apr. 4 Easter Sunrise service – 6:00 am, Baptist Church, breakfast following in the church hall
Easter Sunrise service – 7:00 am, Pilgrim United Church of Christ, Brentwood-Kingston. Community breakfast following, 7:30-9:30. Easter Egg Hunt, 9:30 (children under 10). 197 Middle Road.
Morning worship Baptist Church, 10:00 am
Morning worship, Pilgrim Church, 10:30 am
Apr. 5 Trails Committee – 7:00 pm, Town Office Building
Firemen's Association – 7:30 pm, Fire House

The public is welcome at all above events